

In the Specification

At page 1, please delete the entire paragraph starting at line 5 entitled "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION" including the title.

At page 1, starting at line 17, please delete the entire paragraph and the following paragraph and replace them with the following:

There are several well-known techniques for binding books. One technique, commonly referred to as perfect binding, is used to bind a stack of sheets using a hot melt adhesive. The adhesive is also used to secure a soft cover to the bound stack. Referring to the drawings, the perfect binding process is illustrated in schematic form in Figs. 1A - 1C. This process is typically automated. The stack 30 to be bound is secured in a clamping mechanism illustrated by clamp members 32A and 32B. A grinding mechanism 31 at a first station is used to grind the edge 30A of the stack. This is typically accomplished using high speed rotating cutting blades 31A. The roughened edge of the stack will facilitate the absorption of hot melt adhesive and ensures that each sheet will contact the adhesive.

Next, as illustrated in Fig. 1B, the stack is moved to a further station where hot melt adhesive 34 is applied to the edge of the stack. While the adhesive is still molten, the stack is moved to a third station as shown in Fig. 1C where a folded paper cover 36 is automatically folded around and secured to the stack by way of molten adhesive 34. If needed the stack 30 and/or cover 36 are then trimmed after the adhesive has had an opportunity to cool.